



Tiverton
Rural District Council.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending
31st December, 1943.

TIVERTON :
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
AUTHORITY.

(a) *Part time M.O.H. :*

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(c) *Meat Inspector :*

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TO THE
TIVERTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1943.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.

AREA. 114,139 Acres.

POPULATION (1931) 19,457.

RATEABLE VALUE, £72,245.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £318.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are on the whole good. There are also the following Industries, none of which have any specially deleterious effect upon health.

SLAUGHTERING INDUSTRIES.

Government Slaughterhouse, Tiverton Junction.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	313	176	137	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—15·6
	Illegitimate	25	17	8	
Stillbirths...	...	12	8	4	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still-births) births—35·5
Deaths	...	276	141	135	
					} Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population— 13·1

Deaths from diseases & accidents } from sepsis Nil.
of pregnancy & child-birth } „ other causes Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	63·8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	51·1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	200
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Cancer...	...	...	...	26

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Births per 1,000 of population	...	...	} Live 16·5 Still 54
Deaths	...	...
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	49

EXCESSIVE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

None.

SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY.

Nothing of note.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. NURSING in the Home. No change.
2. NUMBER OF MIDWIVES practising in the Area. The District Nurses of which there are 16 act in this capacity.
3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before.
4. LEGISLATION IN FORCE. There has been no change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
5. HOSPITALS. None in Area. The Tiverton Joint Isolation Hospital receives Infectious Cases and has recently been extended to receive cases of Scabies and Impetigo. There is now, also an observation block consisting of cubicles where a variety of cases may be admitted.

GENERAL SURGICAL and Medical Cases are sent to the Tiverton and District Hospital or the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. These have always proved adequate in accommodation.

MATERNITY CASES requiring hospital treatment usually are admitted to the Tiverton & District Hospital. Recently cases have had to be refused owing to the large demand for beds.

ASHLEY COURT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, TIVERTON.

ADMISSIONS.

Up to December, 1941	...	...	...	260
„ „ 1942	...	...	...	82
„ „ 1943	...	...	...	88

Most cases have been in for periods of one to three months, but a few special cases have been kept for longer.

Recently the hospital has been made available for sick members of the N.F.S. Six female members of the Service have been admitted.

Children have been admitted for a great variety of conditions, for example :

Debility and Malnutrition.

Rickets.

Pink Disease.

Alopecia areata.

Septic states such as Furunculosis.

Septic chilblains.

Infantile vaginitis.

Septic adenitis.

Blepharitis.

Dermatitis.

Tonsillitis.

Peritonsillar abscess.

Otitis media.

Adenitis.

Bronchitis.

Pneumonia.

Convalescence from pneumonia.

Influenza.

Septicæmia.

Chicken pox.

Whooping cough.

Acute nephritis.

Rheumatic fever.

Chorea.

Rheumatic heart.

Synovitis.

Asthma.

Helminthiasis.

Jaundice.

Accidents, fractures, burns, etc.

And a large number for observation.

Children have also been admitted from the General Hospital, the Orthopædic Hospital, the Isolation Hospital and Meath House.

COMMENTS. The most difficult problem has been the placing of backward children in suitable schools, *e.g.*, L. H., aged 10, quite well but unable to read nor write, has been in the Hospital for nearly a year in spite of frequent attempts to get her placed.

The improvement in the children's deportment and manners is evidence of the excellent general training given by the Matron.

During the last year, the Ministry of Health gave authority for the admission to the hospital of local children, where circumstances made this necessary. This might have been a great source of relief, as the accommodation in the children's ward of the General Hospital became inadequate for the increased child population, but the charge fixed for these children was so high (5/9 per day) that it was found impossible to make use of the Sick Bay for this purpose.

We were thus faced with the paradoxical situation of an institution half empty, while local children urgently required admission for various reasons.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

With the exception of the Parishes included in the Regional Water Scheme, supplies generally are satisfactory, although in one or two cases there is a possibility of shortage in a dry period.

CLEANSING OF SWIMMING BATHS. One in area at present and kept satisfactory.

SHOP ACT. No action taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Disposal of Sewage throughout the District is fairly satisfactory although there is need for improvement.

The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme has been prepared for the Parish of Hemyock, and has been approved, but the work will not be carried out until after the present crisis.

Schemes are urgently required for Culmstock, Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Ashill and Bampton.

Halberton is in need of a disposal scheme.

The question of disposal of effluents from the Abattoirs, Milk Factory, and crude sewage from the Council's Sewer at Tiverton Junction in Willand Parish will need attention.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSAL DISPOSAL.

The regional collecting scheme is now in force in 17 Parishes and is working satisfactorily.

SCHOOLS.

The general condition and sanitation of schools are satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses cleansed and redecorated	...	...	4
Nuisances from Cesspools and Waste Deposits	...	...	11
Wells closed	...	...	Nil.
Water Certificates issued in respect of New Dwellings	...	...	Nil.
Number of Cowsheds on the Register at the end of Year	...	...	698
Number of Inspections—Cowsheds	..	...	168
„ „ Dairies	...	...	27
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	255
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	11
Shops and Food Stores	..	...	98
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	721
Inspection of Butchers and Other Shops	...	...	81
„ „ Hide Stores	...	...	4
No. Carcases Examined	...	...	17,978
Amount of Unsound Meat	...	41 tons 6 cwts.	
Inspection of Schools	...	...	10
Disinfections—Infectious Diseases	...	...	15
„ Verminous	...	...	7
Knacker Yard	...	...	3
Nuisances and Complaints	...	...	27
Rats and Mice	..	...	16

1.—INSPECTION FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS
AND WORKPLACES.

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.*

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	5	Nil	Nil
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Workplaces .. (Other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	5	Nil	Nil

DISINFECTION FOR BED BUGS. None required during
the year.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS
AND WORKPLACES.

Nil.

HOUSING.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

- | | |
|--|------------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 5 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 11 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 2 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 8 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. | Nil. |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | No Record. |

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	2
---	---

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners (work in hand) ... | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil. |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners ... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted ... Nil.
- (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition order ... Nil.

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act of 1936 ... Nil.

4. *Overcrowding* :—

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year...
 2. Number of families dwelling therein
 3. Number of persons dwelling therein</p> <p>(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...</p> <p>(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...
 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases... ..</p> <p>(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...</p> | } | <p>No action taken with regard to overcrowding owing to the area being a reception area and a large number of Evacuees in the district.</p> |
|---|---|---|

- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

A great deal of steady progress has been made during the year, thanks chiefly to the effects of the accredited scheme.

SAMPLES OF MILK.

255 were taken for cleanliness with the result that 114 were reported as being satisfactory.

With regard to the 141 unsatisfactory samples, producers' methods were corrected with satisfactory results.

All samples taken for tubercle were found to be negative.

(b) MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Regulations and Slaughterhouses (R. D. C.) Order, 1924.

As a general rule premises are fairly satisfactory and any suggestions by the Sanitary Authorities are promptly carried out.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, and General Meat Inspection.

No action has been needed under the 1933 Act.

Meat inspection at Tiverton Junction has received special attention, and all carcasses, and offal, have been inspected at the time, or just after slaughter.

- (c) ADULTERATION.—No action taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

—This only applies to milk in this area. Samples are regularly submitted to the County Laboratories in Exeter.

(e) NUTRITION.—No action taken.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

In connection with the work of supervising the general sanitary conditions throughout the District, periodical inspections have been made of Council houses, cottages, bakehouses, slaughterhouses, also butchers' shops, and dairy premises, where food is prepared and deposited for sale.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER.

15 cases of this disease occurred during 1943, none were fatal.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A very satisfactory state of affairs has been achieved in the Rural District, 87% of school children being immunised and we estimate approximately the same percentage of pre-school children, with the result that in the last five years there have been a total of only four cases of the disease among children under 15 as against 73 in the corresponding five years 1929 to 1933.

The incidence is not quite as low among adults, there having been 14 cases in the last five years against 28 in the years 1929 to 1933.

We are greatly indebted for this good result to the co-operation of the Heads of the rural schools and to their influence with the parents.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1943 giving age incidence.

Under 1 Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Measles.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.	Typhoid.	Dysen- tery. (Sonné)	Cerebro Spinal Menin- gitis.
0— 1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 2	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
2— 3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
3— 4	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—
4— 5	4	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	3	2	9	4	—	—	—	2	—
10—15	4	—	2	1	2	—	1	—	—
15—20	1	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—30	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30—35	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
55 - over	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—
Total	14	5	20	8	13	4	2	5	3

There was also one case of Puerperal Pyrexia, aged 19
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. No cases notified.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	2	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 up	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	7	4	—	1	3	5	1	—

All the above deaths have been notified according to the Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925. No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. No action was taken.

I am indebted to the officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON.

